AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] As indicated by block 40, the method comprises directing each of a plurality of provisioning requests to the SMS simulator 32. A network element, such as an ~~An~~ Operating Support System (OSS) 42 which performs a middleware application between a main billing and provisioning system 78 and the SMSs performs this act. The OSS 42 configures an SMS server Internet Protocol (IP) address used by clients of the target SMS 22 to an IP address of the SMS simulator 32. The SMS server IP address can be configured individually per provisioning service, e.g. Number Translation Services (NTS), One-Plus Services (OPS) or Virtual Private Network (VPN) services. In one embodiment, the server IP address is set per provisioning service using the following UNIX environmental variables in the OSS 42: LDS_SMS_SERVER_IP_NTS, LDS_SMS_SERVER_IP_OPS, AND LDS_SMS_SERVER_IP_VPN. Preferably, all XML API provisioning transaction flows are redirected to the SMS simulator 32 for capture and future replay to the target SMS 22. The OSS 42 has a graphical user interface (GUI) 43 to facilitate user interaction.